

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14 (Canceled)

Please amend claims 15, 19, 23 and 29 as follows:

15. (Currently Amended) A lid for a container, comprising

a closure surface;

a circumferential rim extending about a periphery of said closure surface, said circumferential rim including an outer wall ~~having a substantially circumferentially contiguous inner surface~~, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween;

a plurality of cut outs formed in at least said transition wall of said circumferential rim, at least one cut out being formed in each quadrant of said circumferential rim,

a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner side wall between said cut outs and said closure surface; and

at least one access opening formed in said closure surface for permitting access to contents of the container;

wherein at least an inner surface of said outer wall is substantially planar in a region extending from said plurality of cut outs to an outer edge of said circumferential rim, and at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs when the lid is positioned on the container.

16. (Original) The lid of claim 15, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

17. (Original) The lid of claim 15, wherein said cut outs are formed in both said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

18. (Original) The lid of claim 15, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.

19. (Currently Amended) A lid for a container comprising:

a closure surface;

a circumferential rim extending about a periphery of said closure surface, said circumferential rim including an outer wall ~~having a substantially circumferentially contiguous inner surface~~, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween;

a plurality of cut outs formed in at least said transition wall of said circumferential rim, at least two of said plurality of cut outs being spaced apart a circumferential distance equal to or greater than a respective quadrant of said closure surface; and

a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner wall between said cut outs and said closure surface;

wherein at least an inner surface of said outer wall is substantially planar in a region extending from said plurality of cut outs to an outer edge of said circumferential rim, and at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs where the lid is positioned on the container.

20. (Original) The lid of claim 19, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

21. (Original) The lid of claim 19, wherein said cut outs are formed in both said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

22. (Original) The lid of claim 19, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.

23. (Currently Amended) A lid for a container, comprising

a closure surface;

a circumferential rim extending about a periphery of said closure surface, said circumferential rim including at least an outer wall, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween, with said closure surface extending from a lowest ~~portion~~ point of said inner wall;

a plurality of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim, at least one cut out being formed in each quadrant of said circumferential rim,

a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner side wall between said cut outs and said closure surface; and

at least one access opening formed in said closure surface for permitting access to contents of the container;

wherein at least an inner surface of said outer wall is substantially planar in a region extending from said plurality of cut outs to an outer edge of said circumferential rim, and at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs when the lid is positioned on the container.

24. (Original) The lid of claim 23, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

25. (Original) The lid of claim 23, wherein said plurality of cut outs are formed in said transition wall of said circumferential rim.

26. (Original) The lid of claim 23, wherein said plurality of cut outs are formed in said outer wall of said rim.

27. (Original) The lid of claim 23, wherein said cut outs are formed in both

said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

28. (Original) The lid of claim 23, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.

29. (Currently Amended) A lid for a container comprising:

a closure surface;

a circumferential rim extending about a periphery of said closure surface, said circumferential rim including an outer wall ~~having a substantially circumferentially contiguous inner surface~~, an inner wall and a transition wall extending therebetween;

a plurality of cut outs formed in at least said transition wall of said circumferential rim, at least two of said plurality of cut outs being spaced apart a circumferential distance equal to or greater than a respective quadrant of said closure surface; and

a circumferential seal formed adjacent to said circumferential rim, said circumferential seal being positioned along said inner wall between said cut outs and said closure surface;

wherein at least an inner surface of said outer wall is substantially planar in a region extending from said plurality of cut outs to an outer edge of said circumferential rim, and at least a portion of a brim of the container is visible through each of said plurality of cut outs where the lid is positioned on the container.

30. (Original) The lid of claim 29, wherein said plurality of cut outs are mutually spaced about said circumferential rim of the lid.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The lid of claim 29, wherein said plurality of cut outs ~~are formed in~~ extend into said inner and said outer wall of said rim.

33. (Original) The lid of claim 29, wherein said cut outs are formed in both said outer wall and said transition wall of said lid.

34. (Original) The lid of claim 29, wherein there are two diametrically opposed pairs of cut outs formed in said circumferential rim of the lid.